

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and an early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

As set forth above, claims 1, 4, 6-7, 10, 12-13, 16, and 18 have been amended. Claims 15, 17 and 19-23 have been canceled, and claims 24-27 have been added. The above-described changes are relative to the claims as published in PCT/WO2004/013570. Thus, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-14, 16-18 and 24-27 are pending and await consideration on the merits.

Support for the foregoing claim amendments can be found at least at the following locations in the original disclosure: specification page 10, lines 22-23, and the original claims.

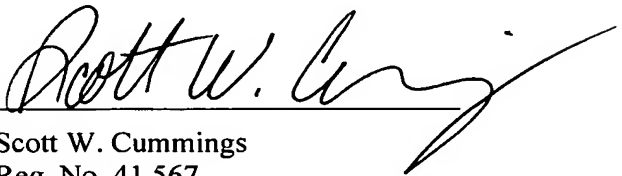
Early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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